

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 2d of *May*, 1728.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



E D I N B U R G H :

Printed by Mr. JAMES DAVIDSON and ROBERT FLEMING, Printers to the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, and sold at the said Mr. *Davidson's* Shop, 1728.

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND

Convened at Edinburgh the 2d of May 1738.

Collected and Extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:



Printed by Mr. James Ballantyne, in Glasgow, at the Press of George Ballantyne, and sold by the said Mr. Ballantyne, at Glasgow, 1738.



THE PRINCIPAL

A T S
 The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioners, May 2. 1728. Sect. 1.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the
Church of SCOTLAND

Holden and begun at **Edinburgh** upon **Thursday**
 the 2d, and ending on **Thursday** the 6th
 Days of May 1728.

The KING's Commission to Hugh Earl of London produced, and ordered to be recorded.

At **Edinburgh**, 2d May, 1728. Sect. 1.
 The General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Right Honourable **Hugh Earl of London**, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the two Kingdoms of Scotland and England, to be kept and used in Scotland, in Place of the Great Seal of Scotland, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted by his late Majesty to the foresaid Earl in the Years 1722 and 1725, appointing him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly. Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly ordered the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram rei memoriam*.

II.

THE PRINCIPAL

*The KING's most gracious Letter, to
the General Assembly, presented to
them by His Majesty's Commissioner,
May 2. 1728. Sess. I.*

of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the
Church of Scotland
GEORGE R.



Most Reverend and Wellbeloved, We greet
you well. The many Proofs and repeated In-
stances which your former Assemblies have
given of their firm and steady Adherence to
the Succession in our Family, and to the Pro-
testant Interest in general, and of their Zeal for the Ad-
vancement of Piety and Virtue, and the Prudence,
Wisdom and Moderation which influenced their Coun-
cils and Debates, have engaged Us most willingly to
countenance your present Meeting with Our Royal Au-
thority; and We do with the greatest Pleasure take this
first Opportunity of assuring you of Our fixed and deter-
mined Purpose and Resolution to maintain and support
the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, in the full Enjoy-
ment of all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law esta-
blished.

We have the most intire Confidence in your Loyalty
and Affection for Our Person and Government, and are
fully perswaded that you come together with the best Dis-
position to contribute all in your Power to the Happi-
ness of Our Reign, as well as to promote the true Inter-
est of the Church whereof you are Members, and the
Good of your Country; and you may be assured of Our
ready Concurrence in whatever may tend to those great
and desirable Ends, particularly in the preventing of the
Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Vice and Irre-
ligion: And we doubt not, but as ye will avoid all
Disputes and Contentions among your selves, which
might give Advantage to those who are Enemies to Our
Peace and Prosperity; you will also make the People
under your Charge sensible of the Blessing of a perfect
Tranquillity which they now enjoy, and will infuse into
them

them those Principles on which the Security of our happy Constitution and their own Welfare entirely depend.

WE have appointed our Right Trusty and Right entirely beloved Cousin and Councillor *Hugh Earl of London* to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his Loyalty, Integrity and Zeal for Our Service: Which Qualifications, and his Abilities for the Discharge of this important Trust, which he has had Opportunity of shewing upon former like Occasions, and the Affection and Concern which you have experienced in him for the Church of *Scotland*, cannot but make Our Choise of him very agreeable to you. And we hope that the Unanimity and Brotherly Love and Charity with which you will dispatch the Business before you, will bring this your Meeting to as happy Conclusion as that of any former Assembly. And so we bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the first Day of *April*, One thousand seven hundred and twenty eight, in the first Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Directed thus,
To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III. The

III.

*The General Assembly's Answer to the
King's most gracious Letter.**Edinburgh, May 4th, 1728, Sess. 3.**May it please Your Majesty,*

THE Honour done by Your Majesty's most gracious Letter to this first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which hath had the Happiness to meet since the Beginning of Your Majesty's most auspicious Reign, we received with the greatest Joy, and do acknowledge with the utmost Gratitude.

THE Mention Your Majesty is pleased to make of the firm and steady Adherence of our former General Assemblies, to the Succession in Your Royal Family, and to the Protestant Interest in general; of their Zeal for the Advancement of Piety and Virtue; and of the Prudence, Wisdom and Moderation, which influenced their Councils and Debates, shews us Your Majesty's kind Inclination to approve, in the most favourable Manner, what hath been done by others before us, according to their Duty, and is a great Encouragement to us to follow the good Example of those, with whom Your Majesty hath the Goodness to express Your self so well pleased. And the Countenancing our present Meeting with Your Majesty's Royal Authority, we take as a great Blessing from GOD, and a most engaging Evidence of Your Majesty's Royal Goodness.

YOUR Majesty's being pleased to acquaint us in so kind and gracious a Manner, that it is with the greatest Pleasure You take this first Opportunity of assuring us of Your fixt and determined Purpose and Resolution to maintain and support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges as by Law established, is an endearing Testimony of Your Royal Favour to us, which we humbly accept with the greatest Thankfulness, and rely upon with the firmest Confidence, as esteeming Your Majesty's Royal Protection to be, under GOD, our great Security.

YOUR

YOUR Majesty does us the greatest Honour, when You are pleased to express the most entire Confidence in our Loyalty and good Affection for Your Person and Government, and it shall be our Care, through Divine Assistance, so to acquit our selves, upon every Occasion, as Your Majesty may never have Reason either to alter or to lessen it. These Sentiments are deeply rooted in our Hearts, and we shall most chearfully embrace every proper Opportunity of shewing them.

TO promote the Happiness of Your Majesty's Reign, the true Interest of this Church whereof we are Members, and the Good of our Country, are great and desirable Ends, which we are bound always to have in View: And we think them so closely connected together, that not any One of them can be advanced without the rest; and we should be most unworthy of Your Majesty's Favour, and of the Character we bear, if we had not the best Disposition to contribute all in our Power unto them, seeing the Assurance Your Majesty gives us of Your hearty Concurrence, in whatever may tend to these great Purposes, is at once the greatest Encouragement and Obligation for us to exert our selves in the most vigorous Manner for accomplishing them. With Pleasure also we acknowledge Your Majesty's Royal Wisdom, when You observe, that the preventing the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Vice and Irreligion will in a particular Manner contribute to the Happiness of Your Majesty's Reign, and the Good of our Country, as well as to the promoting the true Interest of this Church.

IN this we are greatly animated by Your Majesty's recommending them to us, and also by Your Royal Proclamation emitted so early in the Beginning of Your Reign, and in a special Manner by Your Bountiful and Princely Donation to this General Assembly, and the Intimation given us by Your Majesty's Royal Warrant, directed to the Barons of Your Exchequer in Scotland, of Your Royal and gracious Inclination to contribute Yearly so considerable a Fund, for promoting the Knowledge and Practice of Religion in the Highlands and Islands of our Country; for this we beg leave to return Your Majesty our most humble and grateful Acknowledgements, and shall earnestly pray that God may abundantly reward You for so great a Charity to Souls. And we hope the due and faithful Application of it, to the pious Purposes for which it is granted by Your Majesty, shall appear by the Accounts which shall be annually exhibited, according to the Direction contained in Your Majesty's Warrant; and the most effectual Care that we can shall be

taken, that the Persons to be employ'd upon that Fund, shall be duely qualify'd for serving the Purposes for which Your Majesty hath been pleased to bestow it. And it is with great Pleasure we observe, that the same Endeavours which we use for preventing the Growth of Popery, and the Suppressing of Vice and Irreligion, and for Advancing the Knowledge and Service of God among the People under our Charge, do also contribute to make them sensible of the perfect Tranquility, and other great Blessings which they now enjoy under Your Majesty's happy Government and wise Administration, and to infuse into them these Principles of Duty and Loyalty on which the Security of our happy Constitution, and their own Welfare, entirely depend; for next to the perswading Men to become faithful Subjects to our Lord Jesus Christ, our chief Care shall be to make them Loyal and Dutiful Subjects to Your Majesty.

THE Earl of *London* hath given such eminent Proofs of his Loyalty, Integrity and Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, and upon many former Occasions of his Abilities for the Discharge of this important Trust, and of his most affectionate Concern for the Prosperity and Happiness of this Church, as render Your Majesty's Choise of him to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly most acceptable and obliging to us, and we humbly acknowledge it as a particular Evidence of Your Majesty's Goodness.

WE are sensible how much Disputes and Contentions among our selves would give Advantage to these who are Enemies to the Peace and Prosperity of Your Majesty's Government, upon which our own Welfare under GOD does depend; and we humbly acknowledge Your Majesty's fatherly Tendernefs for us in being pleased to caution us against them. We pray and hope, that the good Spirit of GOD, who is the Spirit of Love and Peace, will assist us to dispatch all our Business with that Unanimity, Brotherly Love and Charity which becomes the Servants of the Prince of Peace, and which is so necessary to the bringing of our Meeting at this Time to a happy Conclusion.

THAT the most high GOD, by whom Kings reign, may graciously preserve Your Majesty's Person, direct all Your Councils, and bless Your Government; That Your Majesty may long reign a happy Prince over a Loving and Obedient People; That he may pour down his best Blessings upon Your Royal Consort the Queen, upon his Royal Highness the Prince, and all Your Royal Progeny; That there may never be wanting a Protestant Prince

General Assembly 1728.

3

Prince of Your Royal Family to sway the Scepter over us; and that Your Majesty may late, very late, exchange the Crown which You now wear, for a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away, are and shall be the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in
this National Assembly of the
Church of SCOTLAND;*

*Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and at our Appointment, by*

WILL. WISHART Moderator.

IV.

To the KING's most Excellent Majesty,

The humble ADDRESS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

May it please Your Majesty,

HE great Concern which we, according to our Duty, have in all the Events which happen to your Royal Family, obliges us to take hold of every proper Opportunity to express it; and the Death of our late Gracious Sovereign, Your Majesty's Royal Father, of glorious Memory, with Your Majesty's most peaceable and happy Accession to the Crown, having in Providence fallen out since the last Meeting of a General Assembly of this Church, we humbly presume to take hold of this first Occasion to give Vent to these different Passions, which even at this Distance of Time,

10 The ACTS of the

continue to work in our Minds upon Account of these important Occurrences.

It is with great Satisfaction that we understand that the Commission of the late General Assembly did, according to their Duty, in the most respectful Manner they could, by some of their Number, present a humble Address to Your Majesty, upon an Occasion of so great Concern to us, and all Your Majesty's good Subjects; which Your Majesty was pleased to accept very graciously, and which Address we have in this our Meeting unanimously approved: Yet we cannot forbear to take hold of this first Opportunity of expressing in the most publick and solemn Manner, which our Constitution admits of, our own Sentiments upon this Subject, wherein we are well assured we have the hearty Concurrence of all the Members of this Church, whom we have the Honour in this our Meeting to represent.

THE Death of our late Gracious Sovereign, Your Majesty's Royal Father, of glorious Memory, whom GOD made the Instrument of so great Blessings to us and to all Europe, was so sensible and heavy a Stroke to us, that we should have been inconsolable under it, if so great a Loss had not been made up to us, by Your Majesty's most precious and happy Accession to the Throne.

PERMIT us then, Great Sir, to congratulate Your Majesty upon Your ascending the Throne of Your Royal Ancestors, with the joyful Acclamations of all Your dutiful Subjects.

We shall never cease to bless our gracious GOD, when we think of his setting a King over us, whose Royal Qualities do so brightly adorn the Throne upon which he sits, who even from the Beginning of his Reign, hath given so evident Proofs of his being the Guardian of the Peace and Liberty of Europe, and of all the just Rights and Privileges of his Subjects; who at his entering upon the Administration of his Government, did with the greatest Chearfulness give us the most firm and solemn Assurances of his inviolable Resolution to maintain and protect our Church in the Enjoyment of all her Rights established by Law, and hath fully made good, to our great Joy, this his gracious Purpose, in the following Steps of his Reign.

It is with the greatest Joy that we observe these Blessings multiplied upon Your Majesty, which we hope shall continue to distinguish Your Reign, and render it more and more illustrious. That You are blest with a Royal Consort, who for her many excellent Qualities, and particularly her distinguished Zeal and Constancy in ad-hering

hering to the Protestant Religion, ought to be dear to all the Protestant Churches, while the lives, and have her Memory highly honoured by them to the latest Posterity. And it greatly adds to our Joy for the present, and fills our Hearts with the most encouraging Hopes for the Time to come, that we behold Your Majesty's Throne encompassed with so numerous and hopeful a Progeny, born, as we trust, for great Blessings to the World, and for securing the Succession to the Crown in the Protestant Line of Your Majesty's Royal House for many Generations.

THAT GOD may bless Your Majesty with a long Life and a prosperous Reign; That he may ever defeat all the open and secret Attempts of Your Enemies; That he may establish Your Throne by Righteousness, and make You more and more a Blessing to Your own Subjects, and to all the Protestant Churches; That he may eminently bless Your Royal Consort our gracious Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince, and the whole Royal Family, with all Temporal and Eternal Blessings; and when Your Majesty hath been long honoured of GOD to serve him and promote the Good of Mankind upon Earth, You may be rewarded with Eternal Happiness in Heaven, is and shall be the earnest Prayer of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in a General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

Signed in our Presence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WILL. WISHART Moderator.

To the KING's most Excellent Majesty,
 The humble ADDRESS of the
 Commission of the General Assembly
 of the Church of Scotland.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE lay hold of this first Opportunity that our Meeting together affords us, to express our just Sorrow and Concern for the unspeakable Loss which we, together with all the Protestant Churches, have sustained, in the unexpected Death of His late Majesty Your Royal Father, our most indulgent Sovereign; and at the same Time to declare the hearty Joy and complete Satisfaction that possess us on Your Majesty's quiet and peaceable Accession to the Throne.

WHEN we revolve in our Thoughts, how melancholly our Situation appeared to be by the sudden Removal of our late most gracious and wise King, at a Season when the critical Juncture of publick Affairs in Europe seemed to call for the most steady Hand to conduct them; and when we reflect how momentary our Fears were, how quickly they were dispelled upon Your Majesty's ascending the Throne of Your Ancestors, with the universal and joyful Consent and Congratulation of Your People; and when we see the Weight of British Councils in supporting the Protestant Interest Abroad, and preserving the Ballance of Europe, prevail as formerly; we cannot but admire and adore the kind Providence of Almighty GOD, who hath turned our Sorrow into Gladness, and under these gloomy Circumstances, which threatened us with Danger, hath opened to us the Prospect of lasting Happiness and Security.

IT has been the Unhappiness of Britain for more than a Century past, that it never saw the Throne fill'd, at the same Time with a Protestant King and Queen, blessed and supported by a hopeful Progeny; whence grew that Weakness in the State, and Uncertainty in the Settlement in Matters of Religion, that has frequently threatened the Protestant Churches with Ruin. But now, Thanks be to our most gracious GOD, we see joined to our King, whose Wisdom, Justice and Magnanimity, secures

secures the Church and State from all Apprehensions, a Queen, whose Vertues and Piety are a fit Pattern for your People ; and whose generous Contempt of Diadems, when standing in Competition with the Protestant Religion, is rewarded even in this Life with one of the most considerable Crowns in *Europe*; and assures Religion in this Island of finding in her a tender nursing Mother, as it gives a solid Expectation, that the growing Royal Family, the Hope and Glory of this Kingdom, will be brought up in the same Principles.

UNDER these happy Circumstances we can have no Apprehensions of what we formerly dreaded ; but may reasonably hope, that the abjured Pretender will soon have no Friend in *Britain*, who is not likewise a Friend to his absurd Religion : And our faithful Endeavours must, with the Blessing of God, have the same Success against him, as against those Errors that lead captive his blinded Abettors into his Interest, against their own.

THAT the Profession we make of Affection to Your Majesty is unfeigned and genuine, no Enemy we have can pretend to doubt. Early upon Your Accession to the Crown, we received the strongest Security that Your Majesty will maintain inviolably the Rights and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland* ; and its main Support, under GOD, is from the present happy Establishment of the Crown on Your Majesty and Your Royal Family. Our Preservation depends so evidently upon Your undoubted Title to the Imperial Crown of this Realm, that tho' the Popish Pretender to Your Majesty's Throne, in publick Papers and Declarations, has often attempted to delude others with the vain Hopes of Protection, should his arbitrary and tyrannical Government take Place over this Island, yet not the remotest Insinuation either was or could with any Colour be made in Favour of our Church ; so inseparably are our Duty to Your Majesty, and our Interest connected together. And therefore we humbly presume to hope, that Your Majesty will graciously accept of this first Declaration and Tender of our unalterable Love, Duty and Loyalty.

THAT GOD may long preserve Your Majesty, the great Pattern and Promoter of Religion, and the Defender of the true Faith ; That Your Reign may be happy and undisturbed ; That You may always possess the Hearts and Affections of all Your Subjects ; That You may be the Guardian of the Liberties of *Europe*, the Support of the Protestant Interest, and the blessed Instrument of Relief to our suffering Brethren abroad ; That

all Divine Blessings in CHRIST JESUS may be plentifully dispensed to Your Majesty, to our most gracious Queen, to the Prince, and all Your Royal Family; and that it may ever be the Happiness of *Britain* to have a Prince of Your Royal Line to sway the Scepter, are the ardent Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in the
Commission of the General Assembly
of the Church of SCOTLAND.*

Signed in our Name, at our Appointment,
and in our Presence, by

WILL. HAMILTON Moderator.

ACT renewing the Recommendation of
the last Assembly in Favour of the So-
ciety in Scotland for propagating Chri-
stian Knowledge.

Edinburgh, May 8. 1728. ante merid. Sef. 6.

THE Lord President of the Session, Preses of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, gave in to the Assembly a Memorial from the said Society, representing, That they did lay before the late General Assembly the then State of their Affairs, upon which a Recommendation was granted ; but are sorry to find that diverse Synods and Presbyteries have neglected to make any Report as to their Diligence in what was therein desired of them: That there are new Demands made by several Presbyteries

teries and Parishes for Charity Schools, which the Society cannot answer, because they have already more Schools than their Fund can well maintain; but when Collections come in, they are ready, as far as they can, to settle Schools in Places that most need the same; and for enabling the Society to do this, humbly desiring that the Recommendation of the late General Assembly may be renewed; The Society also represented that they having received Payment of the 1000 *l. Sterl.* mortified by *John Raining* Merchant in *Norwich* for a School, they laid out the same upon heritable Security, and having formerly intimated to the Assembly a Proposal of settling that School at *Inverness*, to which hopeful Youths having *Irish*, at the Society's other Schools might be brought, in order to learn the *English* Language, and when further instructed, be returned to take up Schools in the *Highlands*, it was now reported that the Magistrates, Town Council, Ministers and Kirk-session of *Inverness* have agreed to give Accommodation and Encouragement thereto, and that thereupon that School was in *May* last settled in the said Town, and is in a flourishing Condition. The General Assembly having heard and considered the above Memorial, with the Act and Recommendation of the late Assembly in Favours of the said Society, and heard the Lord President and other Members of that Society give Account of the State and Management thereof; they did and hereby do renew the Recommendation of the said Assembly, and instruct and appoint their Commission to be named by them to take Care that the said Recommendation be executed, and likewise do appoint the several Synods and Presbyteries within this Church to send up to the Meeting of the Commission in *November* next, and also to the next Assembly with the Commissioners from their Bounds, a particular Account in Writing of their Diligence, with a List of Deficients in contributing within the several Presbyteries. And they appoint their said Commission to take this Matter under their Consideration, at their said Meeting in *November* next at furthest, and report their Diligence, and an Account of their Success to the next General Assembly.

to attend them during the Time of their Cure; and having already made some good Progress in obtaining Donations and Donations for the Fund, for the said Cause and Pains of some worthy Gentlemen, and the charitable Disposition of Persons of all Ranks to whom Application has been made. They thought it proper to make the good Design more publicly known, in hopes of an

VI.

*Act and Recommendation for a voluntary Contribution, to be applied towards erecting an Infirmary or Hospital for diseased Poor at Edinburgh.**Edinburgh, May 11th, 1728. post merid. Sess. 12.*

HERE was presented to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland a Petition for the Royal College of Physicians in *Edinburgh*, shewing, That they having observed many poor miserable Objects in this Place, as well Strangers from all Corners of the Nation, as Inhabitants of the City, seeking after the Means of Health, [having nothing either to maintain themselves or provide Medicines, They did some Years ago erect a Dispensatory, provided it with Medicines at the lowest Rates, and by Turns gave Attendance at their publick Hall, to give Advice *gratis*; but finding that the Advice given, and the Medicines apply'd often proved unsuccessful, and came short of their Good Effect, through the Patients their wanting due Care taken of them, and their being destitute of Means for providing a proper Diet and Lodging while under Cure. For Remedy of which, the said College did lately propose the Establishing an Infirmary or Hospital for sick and wounded Poor, after the Example and Practice of most other Countries and Cities, unto which proper Objects may be taken for Cure; and to raise a Stock for that End by voluntary Subscriptions and Donations, that so poor Persons may not only have Advice and Medicines *gratis*, but also (when any Physician sees it necessary) be entertained at Bed and Board, with proper Servants to attend them during the Time of their Cure; and having already made some good Progress in obtaining Subscriptions and Donations for the End foresaid, by the Care and Pains of some worthy Gentlemen, and the charitable Disposition of Persons of all Ranks to whom Application has been made, They thought it proper to make the good Design more publickly known, in Hopes of an universal

universal Approbation; and that many will cheerfully contribute towards carrying on so Christian and necessary a Work, which may prove universally profitable to the Nation; The commendable Practice of erecting and maintaining many such Hospitals abroad, and the great Advantages that are well known to arise therefrom, being a strong Motive for us in *Scotland* to establish one amongst us, whereby many poor Tradesmen, Servants, Apprentices, Journeymen and Labourers, who casually meet with Fractures, Bruises, Wounds, Dislocations, or do fall into Sickness, may, by the Blessing of GOD, and the timely Application of proper Medicines, be recovered and restored to Health and Strength, who through the Want of such Help become Beggars, or a Burden upon their Friends or the Publick, but by Means of this Hospital may be restored to Health, and enabled to follow their Employments and Business, gain their own Livelihood, and be useful in the Common-wealth. And another great Use of such an Hospital is, that the Overseers thereof will be a Check upon many idle and slothful Persons, who under Pretence of some slight Lameness, Sickness or Weakness, become a Burden upon the Country; for such being brought into the Hospital and cured, will be debarred from begging, and the really poor and incurable Lame or Sick, will the more easily and cheerfully be pitied and supplied by charitable Persons: And therefore the foresaid College do invite all Persons, Societies and Corporations, who are in Case to contribute towards carrying on this charitable and necessary Design, to concur therein, and earnestly desire the General Assembly of this National Church, to recommend a voluntary Contribution at the several Parish Churches in *Scotland*, for advancing the foresaid charitable Work, in such Manner as to them shall seem most suitable.

THE General Assembly having heard the said Petition, and taking into their most serious Consideration the deplorable Circumstances of many industrious Poor of both Sexes, who while in Health and Firmness of Body do labour with Diligence, and maintain themselves and Families, yet when they fall into Sickness, or are otherwise disabled, are in the greatest Extremity of Misery, being not only destitute of Bread, but want the necessary Means of Cure and Recovery; against both which Inconveniencies a Remedy is proposed by this Pious and Christian Project. And the Assembly also considering, that this Infirmary or Hospital will be of universal and common Use to the Poor of the whole Nation; they do therefore with the greatest Earnestness recommend a

E

publick

publick Contribution through all the Parishes of *Scotland* for advancing thereof, to be made upon such LORD'S Days as the several Presbyteries or Ministers shall think most proper, after these Presents come to their Hands: And do exhort all well disposed Persons, especially those on whom GOD has bestowed the inestimable Blessings of Health and Strength, and any competent Measure of the other good Things of this Life, that they'll lay to Heart the Distress of such their fellow Christians as are deprived of them, and, according to their Ability, contribute chearfully to their Relief, by encouraging this so necessary and charitable a Design. And the Assembly appoints this Act and Recommendation to be published in all the Parish Churches of *Scotland*, upon the LORD'S Day preceeding the Day to be appointed for the Collection, immediately after Sermon in the Forenoon; and recommends to the several Ministers who preach on the said LORD'S Days, to enforce the same with suitable Exhortations: And appoints the Money collected in the several Parishes, to be put into the Hands of the Moderators of the respective Presbyteries, and by them to be carefully transmitted to *Edinburgh*, with the first Opportunity, to *David Spence* Secretary to the Bank of *Scotland*, who, at the Desire of the said Royal College of Physicians, has undertaken the Trouble of receiving the whole Contributions for this Charitable Work, and will give Receipts for the same, to be accounted for by him to the Managers of the said Infirmary, conform to his Obligation granted for that End.

VII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing divers Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 14th, 1728. post merid. Sess. 16.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that there are diverse weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake, do nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *William Wilsart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*,

burgh, their Moderator, Masters *Thomas Ogilvie* at Coupar, *William Lyon* at Airly, *John Hugh* at Kingoldrum, *Thomas Mitchell* at Aberlemno, *George Ogilvie* at Kirrimuir, *John Willison* at Dundee, *James Hodge* at Longforgan, *John Ker* at Mains, *Henry Ogilvie* at Lunnan, *Tobias Martine* at St. Vicens, *Robert Gray* at Brichton, *John Dunbar* at Menmure, *John Martine* at Othlay, *James Douglas* at Arbuthnot, *William Trail* at Benholm, *Gilbert Anderson* at Fordon, *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity in the King's College at Aberdeen, *James Chalmers* at Aberdeen, *Alexander Shanks* at Drummaick, *James Mitchell* at Footdie, *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College at Aberdeen, *Alexander Toash* at Tarlan, *John Shepherd* at Logie-Colstoun, *Robert Willock* at Echt, *James Gordon* at Alford, *Thomas Reid* at Leuchar, *Walter Sim* at Tillinesle, *Alexander Simson* at Inch, *Gilbert Gerard* at Chapel, *Robert Abercromby* at Lesly, *William Forbes* at Tarvas, *Henry Lickly* at Oldmeldrum, *William Lesly* at St. Fergus, *John Forbes* at Deer, *John Mercer* at Tyrie, *Alexander Philp* at Deskford, *James Innes* at Bamff, *Alexander Ross* at Auchterless, *Thomas Scott* at Fyvie, *John Gilchrist* at Kieth, *James Murray* at Grange, *James Chapman* at Cromdale, *Francis Grant* at Duthell, *Alexander Fraser* at Inveraven, *George Gordon* at Boharm, *Charles Primrose* at Elgin, *William Dougald* at Spynie, *John Squire* at Forreß, *Robert Dunbar* at Dyke, *Robert Thomson* at Kirkhill, *James Lesly* at Moy, *George Gordon* at Cromarty, *Alexander Reay* at Avoch, *William Stewart* at Kiltearn, *James Fraser* at Alness, *Hugh Duff* at Ferne, *John Balfour* at Logie, *Thomas Fraser* at Abertarff, *James Gilchrist* at Kilmalie, *Daniel M'Aulay* at Braccadale, *Archibald M'Queen* at Snizort, *Daniel Morison* at Stornavoy, *Donald M'Cleod* at South-Uist, *Murdo M'Cleod* at Glenelg, *Aneas Sage* at Lochcarron, *Walter Ross* at Crieoch, *John Monro* at Rogart, *Murdo M'Donald* at Duirness, *William M'Kay* at Tong, *James Oswald* at Dunnet, *James Fern* at Wick, *John Keith* at Walls, *Thomas Trail* at Orphir, *Thomas Baikie* at Kirkwall, *William Mair* at Holm, *John Scollay* at Stronsay, *Thomas Covingtree* at Sanday, *John Duncan* at Bressay, *Walter Huggens* at Dunrossness, *John Flint* at Edinburgh, *James Walker* at Canongate, *James Smith* at Cramond, *James Craig* at Edinburgh, *John Mathison* there, *James Hart* there, *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, *John Wilkie* at Uphall, *John Baillie* at Ecclesmachan, *James Anderson* at Falkirk, *John Brown* at Abercorn, *James Forrester* at Culter, *John Buchanan* at Coving-

toun, *James Robertson* at Edlestoun, *Archibald Bruce* at Manner, *Gilbert Hutchison* at Innerleithine, *David Lindsay* at Cockpen, *Andrew Mitchell* at Newbottle, *Robert Mutter* at Cranstoun, *James Alston* at Dirleton, *James Wetherspoon* at Yester, *William Carlyle* at Saltpreftoun, *George Logan* at Dunbar, *William Ogilvie* at Innerwick, *Laurence Johnston* at Dunse, *Daniel Sinclair* at Longformacus, *Henry Veitch* at Swintoun, *George Redpath* at Ladykirk, *James Landereith* at Simpron, *James Ramsay* at Kelso, *William Baxter* at Sprouftoun, *Robert Bell* at Crealling, *John Cranstoun* at Ancrum, *William Crawford* at Wiltoun, *James Ker* at Nenthorn, *John Goldie* at Earlstoun, *David Brown* at Selkirk, *Robert Lithgow* at Askirk, *Thomas Howy* at Annan, *Robert Marcolin* at Ewes, *David Wightman* at Applegirth, *John Whitehead* at Moufwell, *John Allan* at Kirkmichael, *Simon Riddell* at Tinrom, *Robert Farden* at Glencairn, *James Guthry* at Irongray, *Thomas McKinnel* at Dunscore, *John Scot* at Torthorald, *Robert Donaldson* at Balmaelellan, *George Gartshore* at Kircudbright, *Andrew Dick* at Crossmichael, *Thomas Campbell* at Monigaff, *Thomas Ker* at Wigton, *Walter Laury* at Stranrawer, *Archibald Marshall* at Kirkcum, *Alexander Kennedy* at Straiton, *Mungo Lindsay* at Dalgain, *James Robertson* at Craigie, *Robert Alexander* at Girvan, *William Cupples* at Kirkoswald, *Hugh Fawside* at Newmills, *James Rowat* at Dunlop, *John Montgomery* at Stewartoun, *Robert Miller* at Paislay, *Robert Johnston* at Kilbarchan, *Walter Menzies* at Erskine, *Mathew Connel* at Kilbride, *John Wiseman* at Newmonkland, *William Hamilton* at Bothwell, *James Dick* at Carluke, *Thomas Linnen* at Lefmahago, *Charles Hunter* at Pittinian, *Andrew Tait* at Carmunock, *John Gray* at Glasgow, *John Hamilton* there, *Niel Campbell* Principal of the College of Glasgow, *Thomas Andrews* at Kilmaronock, *James Anderson* at Roseneath, *John Allan* at Row, *Archibald Gillespie* at Strachur, *Walter Campbell* at Dunnoon, *James Stewart* at Arran, *John Campbell* at Hay, *James Getty* at Inveraray, *Alexander Campbell* there, *Archibald Campbell* at Lismore, *James Stevenson* at Ardnamurchan, *James Hog* at Caputh, *George Frier* at Lethendy, *Robert Bowes* at Rattray, *Robert Robertson* at Kirkmichael, *Peter Pilmore* at Forgandenny, *Lauchlan McIntosh* at Erroll, *Francis Fergusson* at Rhind, *Robert Lyon* at Kinfauns, *John Warden* at Gargunnoch, *John Gray* at Dollar, *Archibald Moncrieff* at Blackford, *Andrew Ure* at Fossochie, *Archibald Bowie* at Monzie, *Archibald Gibson* at Dumblane, *Patrick Duchall* at Logie, *Samuel Charters* at Innerkiething, *Allan Logan* at Cultrofs, *William Henderson* at

at Dalgety, *David Pitcairn* at Dysart, *James Dickson* at Markinch, *Robert Ponton* at Kennochie, *William Thomson* at Flisk, *Robert Laing* at Newburgh, *Alexander Stodhart* at Falkland, *John Stark* at Logie, *Joseph Drew* Principal of St. Leonard's College of St. Andrews, *Alexander Anderson* at St. Andrews, *Andrew Burn* at Anstruther-Wester, *William Dalgleish* at Carnbee, and *James Hadow* Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, Ministers; The Most Honourable *John Marquis* of Tweeddale, the Right Honourable *David Earl* of Buchan, *Thomas Earl* of Haddintoun, *Charles Earl* of Lauderdale, *James Earl* of Finlater, *Alexander Earl* of Marchmont, *James Earl* of Hyndford, *David Earl* of Glasgow, *Archibald Earl* of Ilay, *William Lord* Ross, *James Lord* Torphichen, *George Lord* Reay, *Sir Hugh Dalrymple* of North-Berwick Baronet Lord President of the Session, *Duncan Forbes Esq;* Lord Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice-Clerk, *Sir John Maxwell* of Pollock Baronet, *Mr. James Erskine* of Grange, *Sir William Calderwood* of Polton, *Mr. James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, *Sir Andrew Hume* of Kimmerghame, *Sir Walter Pringle* of Newhall, *Sir Gilbert Elliot* of Minto Baronet, *Mr. Hugh Dalrymple* of Drummorie, and *Mrs. Patrick Campbell* of Monzie, Ten of the Senators of the College of Justice, *Sir John Clark* of Pennycook Baronet one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, *Mr. Charles Erskine* of Barjarg his Majesty's Solicitor, *Patrick Drummond* of Gairdrum, *George Nicoll* Merchant in Forfar, *George Ramsay* late Provost of Dundee, *Alexander Ferrier* present Provost there, *Sir James Campbell* of Aberuthill Baronet, *James Doig* Baillie in Aberbrothwick, *Robert White* Provost of Brichen, *Alexander Arbuthnot* of Knox, *George Fordice* Provost of Aberdeen, *Robert Stewart* late Provost there, *Mr. George Gordon* Professor of the Oriental Languages in the King's College of Aberdeen, *John Forbes* of Balfluig, *Mr. Alexander Garden* of Troup Advocate, *John Fordice* of Gask, *Thomas Grant* of Achoinany, *James Grant* of Grant, *Mr. Patrick Grant* of Easter Elchies Advocate, *Ludovick Dunbar* of Westfield, *Hugh Rose* of Kilravock, *Robert Logan* Baillie in Forreits, *William McClean* Baillie in Inverness, *Gordon* Baillie there, *Mr. Alexander Gordon* of Airdoch, *Albert Monro* of Coul, *Colonel Robert Monro* of Foulies, *George Monro* of Culcairn, *Alexander Jolly* Writer in Edinburgh, *Captain Alexander Abercrombie* of Glasfoc Deputy-Governor of Fort-William, *Hector McLean* of Coll, *Donald McNiel* of Vaterfay, *Captain David Ross* of Daan, *Mr. John Sinclair* Advocate, *Ni-*

col Spence Agent for the Church, Mr. Robert Honeyman of Græmsay, George Balfour of Trinabee, Mr. James Mitchell of Girssta, Archibald M' Aulay Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Lord Conservator of the Scots Privileges at Campvere, Sir John Inglis of Cramond, Mr. Joseph Cave Merchant in Edinburgh, Mr. Alexander Nisbet Chirurgeon there, Thomas Fenton Baillie there, David Mitchell Goldsmith there Deacon Conveener of the Trades of Edinburgh, Sir James Livingston of Glentirran, Alexander Gillon of Wellhouse, George Dundas of That-ilk Advocate, Mr. Charles Erskine of Edenshead Advocate, Mr. Alexander Menzies of Coulterallas Advocate, James Nasmyth of Earlshaugh, Mr. Robert Dundas of Arnistoun Advocate, Mr. Alexander Hamilton younger of Pancaitland, Charles Brown of Colstoun, Sir Robert Dalrymple of Castletoun, Mr. Thomas Hamiltoun Advocate, Sir William Baird of Newbyth, James Redpath of Angelraw, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Sir Robert Pringle of Stitchell, Archibald Douglass of Cavers, George Baillie of Jerviswood, Mr. Charles Binning of Pilmore Advocate, Robert Paterson of Drygrange, John Johnson of Gutterbraes, Mr. Robert Foord Ballie of Moffat, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, James Currie Provost of Drumfries, Colonel William Maxwell of Cardoness, Mr. Andrew Reid Preacher of the Gospel, Sir James Agnew of Lochnaw, Colonel William Dalrymple of Glenmure, Mr. James Boswell of Auchinleck Advocate, Mr. Hugh Baillie of Monkton, James Montgomery of Pearstoun, James Glasford late Baillie in Paisly, Alexander Finlayson of Nielstonside, Mr. James Baillie of Hardingtoun, James Peadie of Rochill Provost of Glasgow, Mr. John Campbell of Mamore, Mr. George Smollet of Inglishtoun, Provost of Dumbarton, Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglass Bart. John Campbell late Provost of Edinburgh, Peter Campbell of Inverinan, George Drummond late Provost of Edinburgh, James Nimmo late Baillie there, Mr. Alexander M'Millan of Dunmore, Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochnell, Alexander Robertson younger of Strathloch, Captain James Menzies of Comry, Mr. David Moncrieff of Rhind, Mr. Robert Craigie of Glendbig Advocate, William Fergusson late Provost of Perth, Mr. Colin Campbell younger of Aberuchill, Colin Campbell at Kilbride Esq; Colonel John Blacqader Deputy-Governor of Stirling Castle, Alexander Johnston of Kirkland, Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, John Cuninghame of Balbougie, Mr. Alexander Lesly Advocate, Mr. Robert Hay of Naughton, Mr. James M'Gill of Rankiellor, Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie, John Cuninghame of Pittarhie, and Mr. Charles

Charles Gregory Professor of Mathematicks in the College of St. Andrews, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of this Assembly; any Thirty one of them are hereby declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers: With Power to them to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them by any Act or Order of this Assembly; which Commissioners are hereby ordained to convene within the Assembly House at Edinburgh the first free Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and afterwards the second *Wednesdays* of *August*, *November*, and *March* next, and oftner when and where they shall think convenient, with Power to them to chuse their own Moderator. And this General Assembly do hereby renew the Powers granted by the late General Assembly to their Commissioners by their Act dated the 16th Day of *May* last, intituled 'Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing diverse Affairs referred to them,' and the Instructions thereinmentioned in all Points; and ordains this Commission to proceed according thereunto, and report to the next General Assembly.

VIII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for Management of the King's Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 15. 1728. *post meridi*. Sess. 18.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that it has pleased the King, out of his Royal Bounty, to grant the Sum of One thousand Pound *Sterling* to encourage Itinerant Preachers and Catechists to go to the Highlands and Islands, for instructing the People in the Principles of the true Religion; and being desirous to carry on the Reformation in the forelaid Places, and to prosecute his

Majesty's pious Design, do hereby continue Mr. *John Dundas* of *Philpstoun* Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Money, and to lay out the same in the Terms of His Majesty's Grant, and 6th Act of the General Assembly held in the Year 1725, intituled, *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and Management of the King's Bounty for that End*; and do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *William Wisbart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh* their Moderator, Master *James Hart* at *Edinburgh* His Majesty's Almoner, Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the foresaid College, Mr. *William Miller* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Gusthart* there, Mr. *James Alston* at *Dirletoun*, Mr. *Thomas Linnen* at *Lefmahago*, and Mr. *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, His Majesty's Chaplains, Mr. *Robert Kynloch* at *Dundee*, Mr. *William Trail* at *Benholm*, Mr. *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. *James Chalmers* at *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Walter Syme* at *Glas*, Mr. *Robert Thomson* at *Kirkhill*, Mr. *James Chapman* at *Cromdale*, Mr. *John Squire* at *Forreys*, Mr. *Alexander M'Bean* at *Inverness*, Mr. *William Stewart* at *Kiltearn*, Mr. *James Gilchrist* at *Kilmalie*, Mr. *John Flint* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *James Walker* at *Canongate*, Mr. *John Mathison* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *James Smith* at *Cramond*, Mr. *James Stevenson* at *South Leith*, Mr. *William Ogilvie* at *Inverwick*, Mr. *John Gaudie* at *Earlston*, Mr. *Robert Farden* at *Glencairn*, Mr. *Thomas Campbell* at *Monigaff*, Mr. *Niel Campbell* Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. *John Hamilton* at *Glasgow*, Mr. *James Gettie* at *Inveraray*, Mr. *James Stevenson* at *Ardnamurchan*, Mr. *William Moncrief* at *Methven*, Mr. *Peter Pilmore* at *Forgendenny*, Mr. *Allan Logan* at *Culross*, Mr. *Alexander Anderson* at *St. Andrews*, Mr. *James Hadow* Principal of the New College there, Mr. *John McClaren* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Schaw* at *South-Leith*, Mr. *Samuel Semple* at *Libertoun*, Mr. *James Grierson* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Niel M'Vicar* at *West-Kirk*, Mr. *Walter Allan* at *Collingtoun*, Mr. *James Craig* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *James Nisbet* there, Mr. *James Banantine* there, Mr. *Matthew Wood* there, Mr. *John Walker* at *Canongate*, Mr. *Matthew Crawford* Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Fordice* at *Corstorphine*, Mr. *William Brown* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Hepburn* there, and Mr. *George Wisbart* at *Westkirk*, Ministers; Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *North-Berwick* Baronet Lord President of the Session, *Duncan Forbes Esq*; His Ma-

Majesty's Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Mr. *James Erskine* of Grange, Sir *William Calderwood* of Polton, Mr. *James Hamilton* of Pancaitland, Sir *Walter Pringle* of Newhall, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of Minto, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Drummore, Mr. *Patrick Campbell* of Monzie, Eight of the Senators of the College of Justice, Sir *John Clark* of Pennycook One of the Barons of His Majesty's Exchequer, *Archibald M'Aulay* Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir *James Campbell* of Aberuchil Baronet, Sir *Duncan Campbell* of Lochnell, *James Grant* of That-ilk, Colonel *Robert Monro* of Foulis Mr. *Charles Erskine* of Edenshead, Colonel *John Erskine*, of Carnock, Mr. *Charles Areskine* of Barjarg His Majesty's Solicitor, *John Campbell*, *John Wightman* and *George Drummond* late Provosts of Edinburgh, Sir *John Inglis* of Cramond, Mr. *Robert Dundas* of Arnistoun, Mr. *James Boswell* of Auchinleck, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of Easter-Elchies, Mr. *Robert Craigie* of Glendoig Advocates, *Albert Monro* of Coull, Doctors *John Riddell* and *Francis Pringle* Physicians, Mr. *James Baillie* of Hardington, *James Nimmo*, *John Osburn*, *Thomas Dundas*, and *Charles Hope* late Baillies in Edinburgh, Mr. *Alexander Nisbet* Chirurgion there, Mr. *John Dundas* of Philpstoun, and *Nicol Spence* Writer in Edinburgh, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and disposing upon the foresaid Royal Bounty, for the Ends above-mentioned, according to the said 6th Act of the General Assembly held in the Year 1725, 6th Act of Assembly 1726, and 5th Act of Assembly 1727. and the whole Rules and Powers contained in these Acts are hereby renew'd, any Seven of the foresaid Persons are declared to be a Quorum, whereof Four to be always Ministers. And the General Assembly appoints the said Committee to have their Meetings in the Hall of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge in Edinburgh the last *Thursdays* of every Month, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, but to have a quarterly Meeting the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the Four stated Meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, with Power to adjourn themselves as they shall find needful; and they are appointed to keep a Correspondence with the said Commission, also with the foresaid Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and with Presbyteries and Synods concerned in the Highlands and Islands, and Places where Popery abounds in the North, and the said Commission are empowered to concur with

the
to the
the Church as to the
the Church as to the
the Church as to the
the Church as to the

the said Committee in their Work when applied unto for that Effect; and ordains the said Committee to report an Account of their Actings and Diligence to the next General Assembly. And this Committee are to continue till another Committee be named in their Room.

IX.

ACT concerning Mr. John Simson, Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow.

Edinburgh, May 16th, 1728. Sess. ult.

THE General Assembly having maturely considered the Affair concerning Mr. *John Simson*, Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, with all that hath appear'd to them, both from the Depositions of the Witnesses and his own Writings and Papers, do find, that in his Papers given into the General Assembly, upon the 14th and 15th Days of this Instant, and this Day, he does assert the Necessity of the Existence and Generation of the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ.— Also, that he declares that the Titles, *Summus Deus*, and the *only true GOD*, are equally applicable to the Father and the Son, and not in any lower Sense to the Son than to the Father.— Likewise, That he affirms that the Three Persons in the Godhead are one Substance or Essence in Number: Therefore the General Assembly does find that his Sentiments, as above expressed in his foresaid Papers upon these Articles, are sound and Orthodox: Nevertheless, considering what hath been found both relevant and prov'd against him by this present and the preceeding General Assembly, of his having taught and uttered such Things, and expressed himself in such Terms as are subversive of these Blessed Truths, as they are contain'd in the Holy Scriptures, and laid down in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and tend to shake the Belief of them, and to inject needless and ill grounded Doubts and Scruples into the Minds of Men, and to render them dark and uncertain as to what they ought to believe concerning the same; and likewise considering the great Offence which he hath given by neglecting so many Opportunities, during the Course of the Proceedings against him, of giving Satisfaction to the Judicatories of the Church as to the Soundness of his Faith concerning those important Articles

ticles, find themselves obliged, for the Honour of Truth, and in order to prevent the spreading of Error, and preserving the Purity of Doctrine in this Church; to testify their high Dissatisfaction with his Conduct and Behaviour: And many Members declaring, that they thought the said Mr. John Simson deserved Deposition, the Assembly, after mature Deliberation, considering that the Process is not entirely finished, and the other Circumstances of the Case as it now stands, did agree to suspend, and hereby do suspend the foresaid Mr. John Simson from Preaching and Teaching, and all Exercise of any Ecclesiastical Power or Function, until another General Assembly shall think fit to take off this Sentence. And this Assembly does leave it to the next ensuing General Assembly to do concerning him, with Relation to this Process, and the other not yet brought under Consideration of this Assembly, as to them shall seem fit. And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

~~And the Assembly further orders the Proceedings of this Assembly to be printed, and to be transmitted, with the State of this Process, printed by an Order of the Committee of the last Assembly for Purity of Doctrine, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Commissioners to the next Assembly duly instructed upon what they think proper to be further done in that which remains of Mr. Simson's Affair.~~

ACT appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 16th, 1728, Self. ult.
The next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at Edinburgh, upon the First Thursday of May next to come. One thousand seven hundred and twenty nine Years.

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing of a Part of the LXXII Psalm from the 17th Verse to the Close, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JO. DUNDAS Cls. Escl. Scot.

G 2 A

General Assembly 1728

TABLE

OF THE Printed Acts of the General Assembly held in the Year 1728.

- I. **THE King's Commission to Hugh Earl of Loudon produced, and ordered to be recorded,** 3
- II. **The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, and to be printed,** 4
- III. **The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most Gracious Letter,** 6
- IV. **The humble Address of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the King,** 9
- The humble Address of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the King,** 12
- V. **Act renewing the Recommendation of the last Assembly, in Honour of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge,** 14
- VI. **Act and Recommendation for a voluntary Contribution, to be applied towards erecting an Infirmary or Hospital for diseased Poor at Edinburgh,** 16
- VII. **Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing diverse Affairs referred to them,** 18
- VIII. **Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands, and Islands of Scotland, and for Management of the King's Bounty for that End,** 23
- IX. **Act concerning Mr. John Simson Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow,** 26
- X. **Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly,** 27

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing of a Part of the LXXII Psalm from the 1st Verse to the Close, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by
J. DUNDAS Esq. Sec. Genl. Scot.

A B.

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

Acts of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1728, which are not printed.

AFTER Sermon by Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the University of *Edinburgh*, Moderator to the former Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this Assembly did convene, and Mr. *William Wisbart* Principal of the said University, was chosen Moderator, *May 2d*, 1728, *Sess. 1.*

The King's Commission to the Earl of *Lowdown*, to represent his Majesty in this Assembly. *Ibid.*

His Grace his Majesty's Commissioner's Speech at the Opening of the Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Return to the Commissioner's Speech. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner having given in to the Assembly his Majesty's Letter of Gift for One thousand Pounds Sterling for this Year, towards reforming the *Highlands and Islands*, the same was read, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to draw an Answer to his Majesty's Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to examine the Commissions to Members, censure Absents, name Ministers to preach before his Majesty's Commissioner, and for the Moderator, and to receive in Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity, in order to their being recorded, and to bring in their Report as to Commissions, first to the Committee for Overtures; and all Letters of Excuse for Absence were ordered to be laid before the said Committee. *Ibid.*

The Committee of the last Assembly for preserving Purity of Doctrine continued, and ordered to bring in their Report, when called for. *Ibid.*

H

I N D E X

A Diet appointed for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 3d, Sess. 2.*

Ministers named to preach before the King's Commissioner, and for the Moderator, the next Lord's Day, and Sabbath come Sevensnight. *Ibid.*

Some new Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees. *Ibid.*

Some more Commissions produced, *May 4th, ante me-
vid. Sess. 3.*

An Answer to his Majesty's Letter is unanimously approved, and subscribed by the Moderator: And the Lord Commissioner undertakes to transmit it to the King under his Cover. *Ibid.*

An humble Address of Condolance, upon Occasion of the Death of our late Gracious Sovereign, and Congratulation for his present Majesty's peaceable Accession to the Throne, was offered by the Committee for Overtures, and the same, with the late Commission's Address of the like Import, were unanimously approved, and the Assembly's Address was subscribed by the Moderator: And the Lord Commissioner undertakes to transmit both the Answer and Address to the King under his Cover, and Copies thereof are ordered to be sent to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle principal Secretary of State. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for revising Commissions received, and all the Commissions sustained, and Letters ordered to be written to Presbyteries, not at all, or not fully represented, or whose Commissions had any Defects, desiring them to observe the Acts of Assembly, made with relation to sending Commissioners to Assemblies. *Ibid.*

Lists of Probationers and Students ordered to be given in to the Moderator of the Committee for Commissions, &c. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to receive in from the Commissioners from the several Presbyteries, their Synods and Presbyteries Instructions to them, or any Overtures they have to offer from them, and to class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom to the Assembly, and to receive in any Accounts that shall be offered to them, of the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, particularly as to the Growth of Popery and Superstition, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures for suppressing and preventing thereof; and likewise to receive in from the Visitors of the Commission-Book, the Returns sent from Presbyteries and Synods to the late Commission's
Let-

I N D E X.

Letters, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures therefrom; but they were ordered to bring in their Report, first to the Committee for Overtures, that they may fully prepare the same for the Assembly; and all Brethren who had any such Instructions or Overtures, were advertised to give them in to the Committee at their first Meeting, and to attend them at all their subsequent Meetings, and confer with them upon the Heads thereof, when they come to consider the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Persons out of each Synod is appointed to revise the Register of the Commission of the late Assembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accounts, consider the State of the Church's Publick Money, and prepare Overtures about the same, agreeable to the Act 7th, Assembly 1712, and Act 8th, Assembly 1719, and to keep close by the Rules laid down in the said Acts; and all Petitions and other Claims for Money were ordered to be laid before them; and they were also appointed to prepare any Overtures and References made by the late Commission to this Assembly, and they were desired to discourse with the Moderator, or any of the Members of the Commission, about their Remarks upon the Book, that nothing but what's of Moment may be laid before the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to revise the Register of the Committee of the late Assembly for managing his Majesty's Bounty, for Reformation of the Highlands; and an Account of the Depursements of the foresaid Bounty is ordered to be laid before this Committee to be examined by them. *Ibid.*

Committees were appointed to revise the Registers of the Actings of the Synods of Angus and Mearns, Aberdeen, Marry, Ross, Glenelg, Sutherland and Caithness, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, Glasgow and Ayr, Argyle, Perth and Stirling, and Fife, and the Presbytery Book of Zetland; but the Synod Books of Orkney, Dumfriess and Galloway, not being brought up, the Assembly resolved to enquire into the Reasons of that Neglect, when they come to examine the other Books; and it was observed, That the Book of Dumfriess was not brought to the last Assembly, and the Book of Orkney was neither at the last nor the preceeding Assembly 1725. *Ibid.*

The Receivers of the Books made Conveenets of the Committees, and they were desired to have a special Regard to the Rules laid down for visiting Books by the Acts of Assembly 1713 and 1723. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

The Process and Appeals about Planting the Parish of *Kirkaldy* is referred to the Commission to be determined by them. *Ibid.*

The Appeals from the Presbytery of *Elgin*, and Reference of the Synod of *Murray*, about the Planting of the Parish of *Alves*, referred to the Determination of the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Petition of the Parish of *Fetteresso*, and Recommendation of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, for a Collection to build the Bridges of *Cowie* and *Carron* refused, and they left to take the Methods prescribed by Law. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the Circumstances of the Presbytery of *Long-Island*, is particularly referred to the Commission, and also to the Committee for managing his Majesty's Bounty respectively, and they are instructed and empowered to do what they think proper and needful in the Matters set forth in their Petition, and to do what they can for strengthening the Hands of the Brethren of the said Presbytery, and such in their Bounds as are friendly to the present Establishment, and for carrying on a Reformation amongst them. *Ibid.*

The Appeals of the Presbytery and Parish of *Dumblain* from the Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, transporting Mr. *Archibald Gibson* from *Dumblain* to the Parish of *St. Ninians*, and also the Appeal of the Parish of *Airth* against the Sentence of the foresaid Synod, approving a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Stirling*, concurring with a Call from *St. Ninians* to the said Mr. *Gibson*, and refusing to proceed in the Prosecution of their Call to him, were brought in, and the Assembly resolved to take them under Consideration, as the first private Cause, next to what relates to the Process against Professor *Simson*. *Ibid.*

A Representation of Grievances from *Zetland*, remitted to the Committee for Overtures, May 6th, post merid. Sess. 4.

The Committee for Purity of Doctrine offer their Report, and the Assembly receive it, and Professor *Simson* being called, compeared, and the Act and Commission of the last Assembly to that Committee was read, and the Assembly caused also to be read, from the Account of the Proceedings against Professor *Simson*, printed by Order of the foresaid Committee, all the Minutes of the Procedure of that Committee, and of the Presbytery of *Glasgow* in that Affair, since the last Assembly, until the 9th of April last bypast, and before the Assembly proceeded to the Consideration of the

I N D E X

the Professor's Case, Mr. *Niel Campbell* Principal of the University of *Glasgow*, entered a Protestation, that what the Assembly shall do in this Matter, shall not prejudice nor derogate from the Rights and Privileges of the said University. And the Assembly allowed the same to be marked, and delayed proceeding in the Cause until To-morrow Afternoon, that Members might have Time to read and consider seriously the printed *State of the Process*. *Ibid.*

The Assembly find that the preceeding Assembly did begin with the 2d and 3d Articles of the Libel against Professor *Simson*, and because of the Affinity betwixt these two Articles took them jointly under their Consideration, and divided them into four Propositions. 1st, The Professor's alledged denying the *Necessary existence* of our Lord Jesus Christ in teaching his Students. 2^{dly}, His teaching his Scholars, that the *Necessary existence* of our Lord Jesus Christ, *was a Thing we know not*. 3^{dly}, His teaching his Scholars that the *Independency* of the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, *is a Thing we know not*. And, 4^{thly}, His teaching that these Terms, *viz. Necessary-existence* and *Independency* were impertinent, and not to be used in talking of the Trinity, *and that they were Philosophical Niceties we know nothing about*. And that they found all the said Propositions relevant, and found that the Professor's Grounds of Exculpation advanced by him, and upon which Proof had been taken, were not sufficient to elide the fore-said Articles of the Libel, reserving to be afterwards considered, how far these Grounds, if proven, might serve to alleviate, and that they likewise found the first two of the fore-said Propositions proven, but found the third of them not proven; and that the said Assembly had also considered the fourth Article of the Libel, and found the said fourth Article relevant in these Terms, *viz. His teaching, as his own Opinion, That the three Persons of the Trinity, are not to be said to be numerically One in Substance or Essence*: And the Assembly also found, that the said last Assembly had not given their Judgment as to the Proof, either of the said fourth Proposition of the second and third Articles, or of the fourth Article of the Libel, and therefore they resolved to begin where they left off. And the Professor comparing with his Procurators, the said 4th Proposition was read, and all they had to say both from Papers and by Word was heard, and the Committee having divided the said fourth Proposition into two Heads, 1st, That the Terms *Necessary-existence* and *Independency* were

I N D E X.

impertinent, and not to be used in talking of the Trinity. 2dly, That the Terms *Necessary-existence* and *Independency* were Philosophical Niceties *we know nothing about*. And found the first Head proven, and summed up the Proof of the second, and left the Consideration of the Import thereof to the Assembly. They did fully hear the Professor and his Procurators on the Proof of both; and the Professor being by Vote of the House removed, they considered the Proof and Pleadings, and agreed, That the Professor's teaching, that the Term *Necessary-existence* was impertinent, and not to be used in talking of the Trinity, was clearly proven, May 7th, *post merid. Sess. 5.*

Some new Commissions produced and Additions made to Committees, May 8th, *ante merid. Sess. 6.*

The Assembly by a Vote resolve upon Friday next to take in and consider the Report and Overture of the Committee of the last Assembly for *Purity of Doctrine*, concerning Professor *Simson's* refusing to answer the Queries proposed to him by the Presbytery of *Glasgow*. *Ibid.*

The Professor being called, and he and his Procurators heard, and a Paper given in by the Professor read, entitled, *His Remarks upon the fourth Proposition*, and also the Proceedings of the Committee read, the Assembly found it not proven, that the Professor taught, that the Terms *Necessary-existence* and *Independency* were Philosophical Niceties *we know nothing about*. *Ibid.*

And having considered the Professor's Grounds of Alleviation, *viz. 1mo*, That he offered to prove by the Witnesses adduced against him, that he taught, as his own Judgment, the express Words of the Articles in the *Confession of Faith*, opposed to the foresaid Articles of the Libel, *to wit, Chap. 2. and Chap. 8. § 2.* and that he did not deny or impugn any of these Articles. 2do, That he taught, that all the *Essential Perfections* of the Father agree to the Son, but not the *personal Property*, and that whatever could be affirmed of the Father, ought to be affirmed of the Son, except his *personal Property*. And, 3tio, That it does not appear from the Depositions of the Witnesses, that he has denied of the Son any *essential Perfection* of the Father: And heard read the Proceedings of the Committee, and three several Papers given in by the Professor. The Assembly delayed the Consideration of what concerns these Grounds of Alleviation, until they have concluded both Relevancy and

I N D E X.

and Proof of the whole Articles of the first Libel against him. *Ibid.*

The Committee's Procedure, and the Professor and his Procurators their Papers and Pleadings upon the Proof of the fourth Article being heard, the judging thereof was delayed until To-morrow, *May 8th, post merid. Sess. 7.*

The Assembly found the foresaid fourth Article of the Libel, as found relevant by the last Assembly, sufficiently proven, *May 9th, ante merid. Sess. 8.*

The Assembly agreed that the Professor's foresaid Defences are not sufficient to exculpate him from the Charge of the foresaid fourth Article, but only to alleviate, reserving the Consideration how far they do alleviate, until the Assembly come to consider the Censure, *May 9th, post merid. Sess. 9.*

The Assembly having considered their Committee's Overture, upon Professor *Simson's* refusing to answer the Queries put to him by the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, thought fit to lay aside the Reasons offered in the said Overture, and to declare that they do confine their Judgment upon it, only as to Mr. *Simson's* particular Case, and do not mean to establish any standing Rule of Procedure in other Cases. But they remitted to their Committee for Overtures, to prepare a proper Overture for preventing the spreading of dangerous Errors, *May 10th, ante merid. Sess. 10.*

The Assembly having considered their Committee's Proceedings upon the fifth Article of the Libel, *viz.* That the Professor affirmed, that the Three Persons of the Trinity were all indeed one God, and had all the same infinite *Divine Perfections*, and added, That whether the Subject of these *Perfections* was different, was a Metaphysical Question we needed not determine: And also upon the sixth Article, *viz.* That the Professor affirm'd, that in the Trinity there are Three *intelligent Beings*: And likewise upon the seventh Article, *viz.* That the Professor said, *Deus Pater fuit ante Deum filium, non tempore sed causalitate*; and also added these Words, *Ni supponamus Deum non posse creare ab eterno*; and having heard the Professor and his Procurators thereupon, both as to Relevancy and Proof, they found all the said three Articles relevant, but not proven, *May 11th, ante merid. Sess. 11.*

The Assembly found the Case of the Parish of *Ardnamurchan*, as set forth in the Petition of the Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Lorn*, deserved most serious Consideration, and did instruct the Commis-

I N D E X

- on and Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands respective*, to use their utmost Diligence to obtain Redress of all the Grievances complained of therein. *Ibid.*
- All Petitions making Claims on the publick Money, and the Petition of Mr. *William Conachar* demanding a Burse, are referred to the Committee for the publick Accounts. *Ibid.*
- The Reference from the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, of the Competition of Calls for planting the Parish of *Hutton*, is remitted to the Determination of the Commission, as they shall find just. *Ibid.*
- The Commission is instructed and impowered to determine, as they shall find just, in Mr. *John Glass* Minister at *Tealling* his Appeal from the Sentence of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, suspending him from all Exercise of his Ministry until their next ordinary Meeting, for his holding several Tenets inconsistent with the established Government of this Church, and declining to come under Engagements to forbear venting of them. *Ibid.*
- The Commission is instructed to do what they can for redressing the Grievances of Mr. *John Kjetb* Minister at *Walls* in *Orkney*, set forth in his Petition, except as to his Demands for Money, which were referred to the Committee for the publick Accounts. *Ibid.*
- A Petition for a Reference to the Commission to plant the Parish of *Hodhame*, is refused, in Respect the Application came not from the Parish itself. *Ibid.*
- The Grievances represented in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, are particularly referred to the serious Consideration of the Commission and Committee for Reformation *respective*, and they are impowered to do what they can thereanent; but their Claim of Money is referred to the Committee for the publick Accounts. *Ibid.*
- 'Tis recommended to the Presbyteries deficient in collecting for building the Harbour of *Aberbrothwick*, to make their Collections with all possible Diligence, and send in their Money to the Person appointed to receive the same, that the foresaid charitable Work may not be stopped now when it is near finished. *Ibid.*
- The Committee's Proceedings being read upon these Articles of the Libel against Professor *Simson*, for Proof whereof no Witnesses have been adduced, but are to be proven from his own Papers and Writings, *viz.* *Imo,*

I N D E X

1^{mo}, That the Professor owned and acknowledged, that in speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ he did not use the Term *Necessary-existence* nor *Independency*, and gave this pretended Reason for it, that they are not mentioned concerning Christ in the Holy Scriptures, nor our *Confession of Faith*, nor the System he teaches. 2^{do}, That he has taught or vented that *Self-existence*, *Independency*, *Supreme Deity*, and the Title of the *Only True God* may be taken, and are by some Authors taken in a Sense that includes the *personal Property* of the Father, and so not belonging to the Son; and tho' he said that *Necessary-existence*, *Independency*, *Supreme Deity*, and the Title of the *Only True God* might belong to the Son in such a Sense as included not the *personal Property* of the Father, yet he told not what that Sense was, but without doing so, inculcated the foresaid Distinction as a Caution, that might be necessary for Students in reading both ancient and modern Authors, whether Friends or Adversaries to the Truth. 3^{tio}, And that he used to affirm, after insisting upon the foresaid Distinction with Respect to the *Self-existence* of the Son, that he would take it as a Piece of useful Caution or Instruction, both to him and his Students, if the Presbytery would declare the true Meaning of that *English* Term of Art, as he thought fit to call it, when it is to be affirmed of the Person of the Son, and he said the same of the Holy Ghost. And the Assembly having heard the Professor and his Procurators, their Papers and Pleadings upon the Relevancy of the said Articles, and also upon his Articles of Exculpation against the same, they allowed them until Monday to prepare for pleading upon the Proof of them, at which Time they resolved to proceed to the Advising, May 11th, *post merid. Sess. 12.*

The Committee for Overtures, not having met to prepare and bring in an Overture for preventing the spreading of Error, a particular Committee is appointed for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

The Committee for revising the Register of the Committee of the last Assembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands*, is impowered to bring in a Nomination of the Members, and a Draught of a Commission, and Instructions to a Committee to be appointed for managing this Year's Bounty, and some more Members are added to them. *Ibid.*

The

I N D E X.

The Committee for revising the Commission-Book having made their Report, the Book is attested in the ordinary Form, and the Commissioners get the Thanks of the Assembly for their Care and Diligence in what was committed to them. *May 13. ante merid. Sess. 13.*

The Principals and Professors of Divinity from the several Universities are appointed as a Committee to meet and consider the State of the Bursaries, the Petitions of the Students having *Irish* that are demanding Bursies, and the Reference of the late Commission about this Matter, and to propose to the Commission of this Assembly, such Persons as they judge most deserving of Bursies; and likewise to propose the Presbyteries, to whose Bursies they think such Students should be recommended. *Ibid.*

All the Members of Assembly are appointed to meet by their Synods severally, to name Persons of their respective Synods, to be a Committee for nominating the Members of a Commission of this Assembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*

The Proceedings of the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, upon the Proof of the foresaid three Articles of the Libel brought from the Professor's Papers were read, and the Professor and his Procurators their Papers and Pleadings were heard, and the Advising delayed until the Afternoon. *Ibid.*

A List of Persons in the several Synods is brought in, and the said Persons are appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commission to be given by this Assembly, naming the Members thereof, and preparing Instructions for them. *May 13. post merid. Sess. 14.*

The Lord Commissioner acquainted the Assembly, that he had a Letter from Court, shewing him that His Majesty had received their Answer to His gracious Letter, and their dutiful Address, and was well satisfied with the Manner, in which they express their Affection to His Person and Family, and their good Wishes for the Length and Prosperity of His Reign; and he again renewed His Resolution to protect this Church in their Rights and Privileges; and the Moderator shewed, that he had a Letter of the same Import from the Secretary of State. *Ibid.*

The Professor and his Procurators being further heard, upon the Relevancy and Proof of the 2d and 3d Articles of the Libel probable from his Papers, the Assembly

I N D E X

sembly agreed, that the Professor's Teaching or Venting, that the Terms *Necessary-existence*, *Supreme Deity*, and the Title of the *Only True God*, may be taken; and are by some Authors taken in a Sense that includes the *personal Property* of the Father, and so not belonging to the Son; and that tho' he said, that *Necessary-existence*, *Supreme Deity*, and the Title of the *Only True God*, might belong to the Son in such a Sense, as included not the *personal Property* of the Father; yet he told not what that Sense was, but without doing so, he inculcated the foresaid Distinction as a Caution, that might be necessary for Students in reading both ancient and modern Authors, whether Friends or Adversaries to the Truth, is both relevant to infer Censure, and also proven from the Professor's own Papers and Writings; and resolved to proceed To-morrow Forenoon, to consider the Professor's Grounds of Alleviation, and he and his Procurators were advertised to be ready to speak to them. *Ibid.*

The Professor and his Procurators were fully heard upon his Grounds of Alleviation, and the Assembly resolved in the Afternoon to proceed to advising. *May 14. ante merid. Sess. 15.*

The Commission by this Assembly to some Ministers and Elders to manage the Affairs referred, and to be referred to them, and their Instructions were unanimously approved. *May 14. post merid. Sess. 16.*

The Assembly having heard all the Professor and his Procurators their Pleadings and Papers, with Relation to his Grounds of Alleviation, and reasoned long upon the Weight of the Evidences brought for alleviating any Censure that might be inferred from the Articles of the Libel found relevant and proven against the Professor, they delayed further Proceeding in the Cause until To-morrow Forenoon. *Ibid.*

The Assembly did hear further Papers and Pleadings of the Professor and his Procurators upon their Grounds of Alleviation, and reasoned amongst themselves at great Length upon all that had been advanced for him, and then resolved to delay further Proceeding in the Cause until the Afternoon. *May 15. ante merid. Sess. 17.*

The Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and Vouchers thereof were brought in by the Committee for the publick Accounts, and laid upon the Table, to be perused by such of the Members as incline to inspect the same. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

The Committee appointed to revise the Register of the Actings of the Managers of His Majesty's Bounty for the Year 1727, towards reforming the *Highlands*, having reported, that the said Committee had carefully observed the Orders given them by the last Assembly, and had laid down some further and more particular Rules for making His Majesty's most pious Design the more effectual; and that they had been at much Trouble and Pains thereanent, particularly in answering Letters from Presbyteries and Missionaries, and had with great Care and Faithfulness managed the Trust committed to them; the Assembly did approve of that Committee's Proceedings, and gave the Members thereof their hearty Thanks upon the Accounts above written. *May 15. post merid. Sess. 18.*

The General Assembly having also heard a large and particular Report of the Diligence and Abstract of the Proceedings of the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands*, they were very much affected with the lamentable Account given therein of the dangerous Growth of *Popery* and *Jacobitism* in the North, the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, and did agree to the Overtures therein proposed, for preventing and suppressing thereof; and did instruct and empower their Committee for managing this Year's Bounty, to prosecute the said Overtures; and likewise did appoint and empower them to deliver up to Mr. *John Dundas* Procurator for the Church, Receiver of the Royal Bounty, his and his Cautioner's Bond given for his Depurserment of the same, upon his documenting to them, that he has duly depurged the Balance that remained in his Hands at the Time of his Accounting with the last Committee: And the Assembly did instruct and appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting after the Rising of the Assembly, to make a most humble and dutiful Address and Representation to His Majesty of the dangerous Growth of *Popery*, and Disaffection to His Person and Government, occasioned by the Traffiquing of Priests and Jesuits, and the keeping of Meeting-houses by the Non-Juror Episcopal Preachers; and that, together with the said Address, they send up a particular Account and Condescendence of the Instances of the foresaid Evils, and report to the next Assembly an Account of their Diligence and Success. *Ibid.*

The Nomination of the Members of the Committee for Reformation, and Draught of their Commission is approved. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

A general voluntary Collection for Building a Meeting-house and Dwelling-place for accommodating the Missionary in the *Enzie*, and furnishing a Maintenance to him is recommended, and particular Orders given thereabout. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed to treat about Ground to build the said Houses on, and to see the Right thereof perfected; and that being done, to give Direction for executing the fore said Recommendation for the Collection. *Ibid.*

The Professor gave in under his Hand a particular Condescendence of the Articles of Error wherewith he is charged, and making a particular Renunciation thereof. *The Tenor whereof follows.* The Professor, referring to the third Paragraph of his Declaration of this Day's Date in a more particular Manner, begs Leave humbly to represent to this Venerable Assembly.—1^{mo}, That he acknowledges there is a necessary Connection betwixt *Eternity* and *Necessary-existence*; so that whatever Being or Person is Eternal is *Necessarily-existent*, and *e contrario*. This is in Relation to Mark's Argument against the Eternity of the World.—2^{do}, Tho' after the most serious Reflection he cannot recollect, that ever he used this Expression, *Christus est aternus sed non necessario existit*, he disclaims and renounces any such Opinion or Expression.—3^{do}, That he does not approve of taking the Words *Necessary-existence*, to signify the *personal Property* of the Father; and that the *Necessary-existence* of a First Being, who is Author of all Creatures, which we demonstrate against the Atheists, does belong to the Son and Holy Ghost, as well as to the Father.—4^{to}, That he is heartily sorry for his having omitted the Term *Necessary-existence*, when teaching concerning our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he declares his Adherence to his Declaration of Yesterday's Date, in Relation to Christ's *Necessary-existence*.—5^{to}, That he meant not by impugning the second *Article*, Page 181. of the *State*, as to its Relevancy, to deny the Doctrine of the *Necessary-existence* of our Lord Jesus Christ; and is very sorry, that any Expression in that Paper has given Offence.—6^{to}, That the Reason of his hesitating in the Committee of the 15th of *March* last, to answer the Question put to him, concerning the *Necessity* of the *Generation* of the Son of God, in the Affirmative, was the same, for which it is supposed, the Word *Necessity* is denied of it in the Creed of *Damasus*, viz. lest the affirming it might be supposed to include Fatality or Coaction; and that he has taught

I N D E X

that Christ is *Deus natura*, as is proved by concurring Witnesses, Page 155. of the *State*, Parag. 8. And he has already declared what he means by *natura*, by a Declaration of Yesterday, to which he adheres. *7imo*, The Professor is of Opinion, That the Titles *summus Deus*, and the *Only True God*, are equally applicable to the Father and the Son, and not in any lower Sense to the Son than to the Father.—To conclude, The Professor here disclaims and renounces any Terms, Expressions, or Ways of Speaking, that are contrary unto, or inconsistent with the above Propositions; and is exceedingly sorry, that he has given any Offence to his Reverend Brethren, or any Member of this Assembly, or of the Church of *Scotland*, by his Way of expressing himself upon the Subject of these Propositions.—And for the future, the Professor resolves, thro' Divine Assistance, that his Dear and Reverend Brethren of this Church shall never find Reason to challenge or accuse him of having receded from this his present and Yesterday's Declaration. And hopes, that this Venerable Assembly will never fix Error upon him, contrary to these most sincere Explications of the Sentiments of his Heart. JOHN SIMSON.—And a Summary of the Proceedings of the last and this Assembly in Mr. *Simson's* Affair was read, and the Professor and his Procurators gave a short Account of all that they have pled in his Defence, and for alleviating the Censure. And the Assembly found, that in the foresaid Paper, the Professor disowns the Error he is charged with, and declares his Adherence to the Truth of the *Necessary-existence* of the Lord Jesus Christ; and after long Reasoning upon the whole Affair, they appointed a Committee to consider what may be a proper Sentence to be pronounced in this Case, and to draw up the special Grounds thereof. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Ross*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* were attested, but there being Four Years Actings of the Synod of *Murray* not yet recorded, they were ordered to have their Book compleatly filled up, and to present it to the next Assembly, and the Synod of *Argyle* having of themselves erected a new Presbytery without Authority of Assembly for that End, the Assembly did disapprove thereof, appointed the several Presbyteries in that Bounds to meet as they were in Use to do before the said pretended Erection, until by a regular Application to the Assembly, or their Commission impowered to that Effect,

an

I N D E X.

an Alteration shall be made in the said Presbyteries; and they instructed and impowered their Commission to take that Matter under their Consideration, and prepare an Overture in the next Assembly about any Alteration that they may judge fit to be made therein; and the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* was enjoined to be more exact in calling their Members to an Account for their Absence from the Meetings. And the Synod Book of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Drumfries* and *Galloway* not being brought up, the Brethren from those Synods offered Excuses, which were admitted for this Year: They, and especially the Synods of *Drumfries* and *Murray* were strictly enjoined to fill up their Books to be revised by the next Assembly, and none of the Visitors of the Synod Books of *Lathian* and *Tweddale*, *Glenelg* and *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, and of the Presbytery Book of *Zetland* being present, the Assembly resolv'd at their next Meeting to call them to an Account for their withdrawing before the Assembly had ended all their Business. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Lathian* and *Tweddale*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* were attested, and the Presbytery of *Zetland* having pronounced a Sentence of summar Excommunication more hastily than they ought to have done by the Rules of the Church, the Ground thereof being chiefly Contumacy, and their privy Censures being too generally recorded, the Assembly did disapprove of that summar Excommunication, and advised them in Time coming to observe exactly the Rules set down in the Form of Process in such Cases, and to set down in their Book a distinct Roll of the ordinary Questions that are appointed to be put at privy Censures in Synods and Presbyteries, and take Care to make their Enquiries conform thereto, and that their Book do bear the same, and the Synod Book of *Sutherland* and *Caithness* not being brought up, the Brethren from that Synod offered their Excuse, which was admitted by the Assembly, but they ordered the Book to be brought to be visited by the next Assembly. *May 16. ante merid. Sess. ult.*

The Committee for the publick Accounts having made their Report as to the State of the Church Debts, the Assembly found, that besides the Ballance of 96 lib. 4 sh. 5 d. due to the Procurator for the Church, and 173 lib. 10 sh. 4 d. Sterling to the Agent, there is 32 lib. 12 sh. 4 d. resting to Mr. *Hugh Corss*, 8 lib. 6 sh. 8 d. to Mr. *George Duncan*, 16 lib. 13 sh. 4 d. to Mr. *Coleman Kenzie*, and the like to Mr. *Andrew Fiskin*, 50 lib. to

I N D E X.

Thomas Lumsden Printer, for the *Confessions of Faith in Irish*, To the Church's Printer 15 *lib.* 12 *sh.* 3 *d.* *Sterl.* already stated, also there are divers Processes depending formerly ordered to be carried on, and now many Demands and Claims on the Church's publick Money, and the General Assembly agreed to grant no new Orders until the foresaid Debts already stated be paid; but that the Sum of 200 *lib.* *Sterling* be paid to Mr. *James Hadow* and Mr. *William Hamilton* Commissioners sent to the King, next to the above Debts contracted before the Date of their Commission in *August* last, that next to them 100 *lib.* *Scots* be paid to the Commissioners from each of the Presbyteries of *Abertarph*, *Longisland* and *Gairloch* to this General Assembly, because of their present Circumstances, Fewness of Ministers there, Smalness of their Stipends, and the Need of their coming hither to represent the State of their Bounds; but as to the other Demands, the Consideration thereof is delayed till all the Debts and other Claims above named be paid. And the Procurator for the Church is ordered in his Payments to keep close by the Directions contained in the 12th Act General Assembly 1712, and 8th Act General Assembly 1719. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of Mr. *John Dundas* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, for a whole Year of his Majesty's Allowance to the Church, which was at the Disposal of the last Assembly 1727, for defraying the Charges of the Church for that Year, and discharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromissions, and appointing the Ballance of Ninety six Pounds four Shillings five Pennies and one third Part of a Penny *Sterling* Money due to him, to be stated as an Article of Discharge in his next Accounts. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, his Intromissions with the Church's Money, and sustaining his Depursements on the Church's Affairs, and discharging him of his said Intromissions, and all Preceedings, and appointing the Ballance of One hundred and seventy three Pounds ten Shillings four Pennies and one sixth Part of a Penny *Sterling* Money due to him, to be paid with Interest and Preference according to the Rules laid down by the General Assembly and Commissions thereof. *Ibid.*

Upon Report of the Committee for the publick Accounts concerning the publick Collections, and Disposal of the publick Libraries, they did find the Collection for building a Bridge over the Water of *Strome*, and a Church

at

I N D E X

at *Shurton* in *Zetland*, rightly applied, both the said Church and Bridge being built, and that there is a Balance of 819 *lib. 1 sh. Scots* yet due to *James Mitchel* of *Girgsta*, who carried on the Work; and therefore discharges the Collectors of that Contribution, and agreed to the Cautioners Bonds being given up, and that a Letter of Thanks be written to *Girgsta*. *Ibid.*

The building of new Churches and Manfes for the three new Parishes in *Strathnaver* being going on, and the Collection of Stipends about to be settled on heritable Security, a Committee is named to give Directions thereanent; also for bringing in Deficiencies in that Collection, and these for *Hildburghausen* and *New-York* in *America*, and for seeing to the right Application thereof, and the other Collections for a Kirk at *Noriston*, and another at *Kerston*, and for Bridges at *Naver* and *Dee*, and others lately recommended, and calling the Collectors to an Account, with a Reference to the Commission thereanent. And the Assembly appointed Lists of the Deficients to be laid before the said Commission. *Ibid.*

Act renewing the Order of the late General Assembly concerning Libraries and the Registers of the Church, with a Reference to the Commission thereanent. *Ibid.*

Upon Report of the Committee appointed to revise the Commission Book, concerning the Diligence of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, in executing the Orders of Assembly relating to their respective Offices, the Assembly found, that Decrees having been extracted for dividing the Parishes of *Lochcarron*, and *Kintail*, and erecting four new Parishes therein, Processes have been carried on for Stipends thereto, and Decrees are ready for extracting, and Diligence is using for obtaining Churches, Manfes, Glebes and Schools thereto, also for *Lochalsh*, *Lochbroom*, and for the four new Parishes in the *Lewes*, and as for the new Erections designed in North and South *Uists*, *Bara* and *Gigha*, the same do stop for Want of the Consents required by Law. That by diverse Interlocutors of the Lords of Session, *Ardchattan's* Right to the Teinds of *Tirrie* is set aside; but the Process for another Minister to *Tirrie* and *Coll* is not yet brought to a Period. That a Decree is pronounced for a new Kirk in the Parish of *Kilmorack*, and a Stipend to that Parish, and a Process commenced for Settlement of the Stipend of *Affint*, that the Decree for the Stipend of *Kildonan* is extracted, and Diligence using for removing the Grievances of the Parish of *Arroquhar*, and that Endeavours are using for accommodating the Minister

I X N D E X

minister of *Whithorn* with Peats, and to save the Expenses in defending against an Appeal to the House of Peers, also for settling Parochial Schools where wanting. *Ibid.* And the General Assembly did approve of the Diligence of the Procurator and Agent in their Management of the above Affairs committed to them, and referred the Case of the Minister of *Whithorn* to them, and also to the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Committee about Mr. *Simson's* Affair being ready to make their Report, the Professor and his Procurators were called, and then the Committee in their Presence gave in to the Assembly the following Paper offered to them by the Professor under his Hand, viz. "The Professor is of Opinion, and believes that there is one only God, that in the *Trinity* of the Godhead there are Three Persons, God the Father, &c. and that the Three Persons in the Godhead are one Substance or Essence in Number; and is sorry that in his Teaching he should have said any Thing which has given Ground to any to think, that he taught any Thing contrary to this Proposition. JOHN SIMSON?" After hearing this Paper read, the Committee gave in their Overture, and some Amendments being made thereto, it was several Times read and reasoned upon, and then agreed to by the Assembly, as it stands in the printed Act; and the same being intimated to the Professor, he was enjoined to observe the Directions thereof, and the Assembly gave the Committee for Purity of Doctrine their most hearty Thanks for the Zeal they have shewed for the Truth, and the great Pains they have taken in this Process against Professor *Simson*. *Ibid.*

'Tis remitted to the Commission to cognosce and determine the Case of Mr. *Thomas Mitchel* at *Abernyte*, referred to the Assembly by the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed and impowered to take in, and finally determine in any Reference that may be brought before them about planting of the Parish of *Kirkcaldie*, the same coming always in a regular Course from the Synod. *Ibid.*

The Case of Mr. *Walter Sim* at *Tillineffe*, as to his small Stipend, referred to the Assembly by the Presbytery of *Alford*, is remitted to the Consideration of the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed and impowered to hear and determine in the Matters set forth in the Lady *Logan's* Petition, and Appeals from the Synod of *Galloway*,

INDEX.

Idoway, concerning her being refused a Token to communicate. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the State of the Parish of *Colace*, with Respect to its Stipend, as set forth in the Representation of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, is referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Assembly referred to, and empowered their Commission to receive, cognosce and determine in any Appeals or References that may be brought before them concerning the Planting of the Churches of *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

The Consideration of the proposed Disjunction of the Parish of *Dudingston* from the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and Annexation of it to the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, is referred to the Commission, with Power to do therein as they shall think expedient. *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the last Assembly of a Collection for Building a Harbour in *Anstruther Easter*, is renewed. *Ibid.*

The Matters set forth in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Dingwall* are referred to the particular Consideration and Care of the Commission, and they are instructed to do what they can therein, especially as to the Grievances of the Parish of *Contane*. *Ibid.*

The Assembly refers to, and instructs their Commission, to concur with, and give all Assistance to the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, and Minister and Heritors of *Falkirk*, in their Endeavours to obtain the vacant Stipends of the Parish of *Falkirk*, to be applied to the pious Ends and Purposes mentioned in their Petition to the Assembly, and do appoint the Prebutor and Agent for the Church to concur with, and assist them in any Thing proper for them concerning that new erected Parish. *Ibid.*

The Matters set forth in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, with Relation to the bounding of Popery and other Things, are referred to the special Consideration of the Commission, and 'tis recommended to them to do therein what they can in the Matters proper for their Consideration, and the Things proper for the Committee for the Reformation of the Highlands, are referred to their Consideration, and 'tis left to the Petitioners to apply to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, for obtaining what is proper to be demanded from them. *Ibid.*

It is committed to the Commission to consider the Overture of the Committee of Assembly 1727, for Purty of Doctrine, concerning the Expences and Charges of the Processes against Professor *Simson*, and they are in-

I N D E X.

- instructed and impowered to do therein as they shall judge reasonable, and likewise to consider what is fit to be done with the contumacious Witnesses, and to do in that Matter what they find just. *Ibid.*
- The Matters set forth in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Longisland*, with Relation to the Growth of Popery, and other Grievances, are referred to the Commission, and they are instructed and impowered to determine therein as they shall see Cause. *Ibid.*
- The Commission is instructed and impowered to take in the Appeal of *William Wilson* in *Garchrew*, from the Sentence of the Synod of *Galloway*, and Presbytery of *Wigtoun*, laying an Appointment on him to purge himself by Oath of the Scandal of Adultery, whereof he was accused, and to cognosce and determine therein as they shall find just. *Ibid.*
- The Assembly appoints the Several Presbyteries to be acquainted, to take Care to observe the Directions of the Law concerning the Stamp Duties, that they incur not the Penalties thereof, intimated in the Petition of *Ventris Columbin*, Head-Distributor and Collector of the said Duties in *Scotland*. *Ibid.*
- The Commission is impowered to cognosce and determine finally as they shall find just in the Processes concerning the planting of the Parishes of *Airth* and *St. Ninians*, and what concerns the desired Transportation of *Mr. Archibald Gibson* from *Dumblane*. *Ibid.*
- The Assembly remits to their Commission, to consider *Mr. James Robertson* Student, his Demand for a Bursè, and do therein as they shall see Cause. *Ibid.*
- The Desire of the King's College of *Aberdeen*, for a Reference to the Commission for planting the Parish of *Old-machir*, was by a Vote of Assembly refused. *Ibid.*
- The Assembly refers to, and recommends to their Commission, to consider what has been already done, and do what further they can for obtaining an Augmentation to the Stipend of *Mr. John Coupar* one of the Ministers of *Montrose*, in Pursuance of the Recommendation of the Synod of *Angus and Mearns*. *Ibid.*
- The Assembly refers to, and instructs their Commission to consider the Case of the *Lithuanian* Students, and do what they can for their Encouragement, and that at their first Meeting. *Ibid.*
- The Consideration of the Grievances of the Presbytery of *Zetland*, set forth in their Petition, is referred to the Commission, and they are instructed to do what they can to redress the same. *Ibid.*

All
Processes against Professors
concerning the Expenses and Charges of the
M

I N D E X.

All Affairs that were depending before the Commission of the last Assembly, and not discuss'd by them, are referred to the Commission of this Assembly. *Ibid.*

Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity were brought in and read, and the List of Probationers ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Glenelg* was examined, and attested in the common Form. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to revise the Minutes of this Assembly, and give Orders for printing such of the Acts thereof as are to be standing Rules, and are of publick Use. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Day's *Sederunt* were read, the Minutes of preceeding *Sederunts* having been formerly read at the respective Diets, subsequent to each *Sederunt*. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner made a Speech in Return, and then the Assembly was concluded. *Ibid.*

F I N I S.

